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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1957.

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COMMENT OF THE DAY

CHRISTMAS

"AND suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

So runs the ancient story, but long familiarity has somewhat staled the beauty of that first Christmas message, and the importance of those tidings. For they came to a world not unlike our world of today. Everywhere men were bound to a foreign yoke, and the Roman Empire seemed eternal, unconquerable, and the only peace men could secure was to bow the knee to Caesar.

And yet, under the humblest circumstances, in the meanest hotel in the most despised of Caesar's dominions, was born the Deliverer. Had Caesar been told that this child, lying in a manger, common fellow to the oxen, would one day rule in the hearts of men a kingdom greater than Caesar's hosts could conceive, he would have roared with laughter. Had the politicians of that age been informed that at Bethlehem was the Saviour of the world, they would have reduced to absurdity such a suggestion.

Passed Away

YET Caesar has passed away, and others have come and gone since that time. Each in his moment seemed eternal, and men bleeding from his tyranny cried out "How long, O Lord?"

Surely then, at this moment, when Christmas 1957 is but a few hours off, we can take comfort from this fact. Yet everywhere there are men who have lost hope. And those who are left in the world we call free see no future for freedom as a mighty host assembles to challenge the angels' message.

But that host shall fall, and all its pomp and vanity, and vain learning. This is no sentimental hope. It is a law as ruthless in its tenderness, as Caesar's in its mercilessness.

Life can work but one way if man is to realise the highest aspirations he entertains of himself. And proof lies in the fact that within an hour or so, men of all nations will be kneeling before the babe of Bethlehem. Not from fear, but for love of Him.

Let us consider that, as the sun rises on a glorious tomorrow, our hope is where it was and is, and ever more shall be—at Bethlehem.

DUTCH PROTEST TO UN

Indonesia Blamed For Action Against Nationals

New York, Dec. 23.

The Netherlands today protested to the United Nations "against the activities and actions of the Indonesian Government" toward Dutch citizens and interests in recent weeks.

Mr. C. W. A. Schurmann, the Dutch permanent representative, addressed a letter to the Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, and said the Indonesian Government had "deliberately and systematically provoked the rising animosity of the population against a foreign minority in their country."

Responsible

The Indonesian Government was "responsible and answerable to the fullest extent for the present shameful situation and all its consequences," he said.

"The situation now prevailing in that country," the letter went on, "is a threat to the security and to the living and working conditions of this minority which is being subjected to injurious treatment on the ground of nationality only."

"The Indonesian Government is deliberately inflicting on them conditions of life calculated to bring about hardship and eventually forced departure."

Mr. Schurmann said that these hostile activities against Netherlands nationals and their property in Indonesia violated the principles generally recognized in international law and laid down in the Charter of the United Nations.

"Since the boycott and the seizure of Netherlands enterprises are not used to uphold international law but to gain political advantage, they constitute an illegal intervention on the part of the Indonesian Government."

Ordered

"Insofar as the acts of boycott and spoliation have been committed by private citizens, groups or organizations, they have either been ordered, authorized or tolerated by the Government....

"Furthermore, the measures taken or authorized by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia do not only constitute discrimination against Netherlands nationals but they also fall below the minimum standard to be observed by a state in the treatment of aliens."

"Thirdly, the hostile activities directed against the Netherlands community in Indonesia are an open negation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms which the Charter of the United Nations was designed to uphold and which the organization con-

tinuously seeks to develop and codify.

"Finally, it should be noted that, according to a number of official Indonesian statements... the pressure exerted on the Netherlands community in Indonesia should be seen as a reaction to the General Assembly's refusal to satisfy the Indonesian claim to Netherlands New Guinea."

"If that were the case, it would be an effort to which by illegal means that which by legal means could be achieved through lawful procedure. Such action contains a challenge to the authority of the United Nations."

All Rights

"The Netherlands Government herewith registers a strong protest against the activities and actions of the Indonesian Government described above and reserves all rights to which it is entitled."

Mr. Schurmann added that since the matter concerned "both the Security Council and the General Assembly," his Government wished the contents of the letter to be brought to the attention of "the members of either body."—Reuter.

WOLVES DOPED

London, Dec. 23.

Russian hunters are using tranquilisers to trap wolves, Moscow Radio said today.

A broadcast heard here said hunters in Byelorussia were adding the drug luminal in powdered form to bait and found 10 to 12 grams was enough to send a wolf to sleep for more than 24 hours.

"The other day three hunters discovered a pack of wolves near the Budyenny collective farm," Moscow Radio said. "A bait containing luminal was put out, and at night the wolves swallowed it and went away a short distance where the hunters found them asleep. Six beasts were destroyed."—United Press.

Little Hope For Scots Ship

London, Dec. 23.

There is now little hope left of finding the 28 members of the crew missing when the Scots 1,190-ton cargo ship Narva sank in the North Sea 180 miles off Aberdeen yesterday.

The ship's owners are mystified as to how the ship could sink so fast and that no signals from the automatic radio with which one of the ship's rafts is equipped have been heard.

Air and sea search is to be continued as long as hope subsists but it is seriously hampered by bad weather over the North Sea.—France-Press.

The Editor And His Staff

Take the opportunity to wish readers of the China Mail a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

EXAMINE RUSSIAN PROPOSALS

—Selwyn Lloyd

London, Dec. 23.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, Britain's Foreign Secretary, said tonight he thought the West should examine seriously any Russian proposals which might lead towards world peace.

He was questioned on a BBC television programme about the latest Soviet demands for top-level talks, and said it was more important to consider such proposals on their merits than to speculate about the motives which prompted them.

The present proposals covered suggestions which had been made before, but nevertheless they should be carefully considered. "We want peace and security," Mr. Lloyd said. "The question is how we should get it. We would rather have peace based on good faith but that is not possible because there is no level talks, and said it was more important to consider such proposals on their merits than to speculate about the motives which prompted them."

He thought the plan for "disengagement" and a neutral Germany might increase instability in Europe rather than reduce it.—China Mail Special.

Man Detained In Slaying Investigation

Boston, Dec. 23.

A longshoreman was seized for questioning today in the gangland style slaying of former boxer Tommy Sullivan.

Police said the longshoreman was involved in a brawl a year ago with the 35-year-old former light heavyweight boxer who was shot to death last night. His body was found in gutter about 200 feet from his home.

Police sought three other men for questioning in the slaying which they believed was the work of hired killers.

Authorities also investigated reports that Sullivan was slain because he opposed a New York gang which was trying to move in on Boston's waterfront.—United Press.

BAILIFF WAS TOO KIND

London, Dec. 23.

Patrick Farrell's trouble is that he is soft-hearted—and that's the reason why he is no longer bailiff of St. Pancras Borough Council.

He was fired for "gross inefficiency"—failing to call on people overdue with their public service bills.

"I believe in being kind, in being humane," 57-year-old Patrick explained to the committee which dismissed him. "I like to think I have a kind streak and I used to give people time to pay. I have been told I am too much of a gent."

Committee Chairman Ivy Hart said: "We all know a bailiff's job is not a pleasant one. But the committee were satisfied that the charges of gross inefficiency had been proved."

But Patrick is still smiling—he was given another job with the Council and at the same salary.—United Press.

Famine Hits Java

Djakarta, Dec. 24.

Floods and famine have struck Central Java, the news agency PIA reported today.

PIA said famine was reported in 30 subdistricts of Central Java.

Observers in Djakarta said that over 25,000 people live in the stricken area.

PIA reported the floods were damaging rice fields in central and west of Java island which has a population of over 50,000,000.

The news agency described rice shortage in Central Java as a "calamity" and said the local administration was planning to distribute food and find work for the population.

In Kedureh regency, Central Java, floods swept across several hundred hectares of rice fields bringing big losses to farmers.

INUNDATED

PIA said floods also inundated rice fields and swept through villages in the West Java regency of Madjalangk.

Thirty-four homes were damaged in the floods and a landslide brought further losses to the peasant villagers.

In Djakarta the Independent newspaper Indonesia Raya, in an editorial, said the people in Sumbawa island, East Indonesia, and on Borneo were crying for rice.

"Indonesia Raya said, 'If Minister Sunarto (the Minister for Agrarian Affairs) is not capable of controlling the price of rice, there is always an honorable way out for him, resign.'"

The newspaper Kengapo yesterday reported that 500 tons of rice from Singapore had arrived in Bandjarmasin, South Borneo, aboard a ship that would return with 500 tons of rubber.

Kengapo said it learned from its correspondent in Bandjarmasin that this shipment was the first of 10,000 tons of rubber that would be barked through Singapore in the next six months.—Reuter.

FOUR KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

London, Dec. 23.

A York aircraft of Scottish Airlines crashed in flames while coming in to land at Stansted airport, near London today.

All four persons aboard were reported dead.

The plane was coming in to land in thick fog when it hit the road between the villages of the Tye Green and Epsom. It burst and police said all four crewmen aboard were killed instantly.

The York, a four-engined version of the World War II Lancaster bomber, was carrying freight for the Royal Air Force from Malta.—United Press.

Hacking Cough Mixture

Moz, Dec. 23.

A 16-year-old boy, arrested for mixing ground glass with cough syrup powder in a pharmaceutical factory, told police today he did it because he wanted to see what happened during a full-scale investigation.—United Press.

EISENHOWER CALLS FOR MORE ACTION

Washington, Dec. 23.

President Eisenhower in his Christmas message to the nation and the world today called for "sweat and toil" to translate good intentions into fruitful action on behalf of peace.

Water Restrictions Eased For Holidays

There will be a continuous supply of water over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Announcing the relaxation of restrictions this morning the Water Authority said that there will be a continuous supply from 5 a.m. tomorrow until 10 a.m. on Friday and from 5 p.m. on December 31 until 10 a.m. January 2.

Justice

The President said that to all peoples who prize liberty, who sought justice and peace for their fellow men, even to those who in the climate of this era are called for suspected the United States, he spoke for all Americans in a heart-felt message that happiness might be theirs at this Christmas tide.

The President referred briefly to the recent North Atlantic "summit" conference in Paris. He said that he had had the opportunity to work closely with the leaders of the Western alliance, and noted that later this evening he and the Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, would report to the nation on the Paris talks.

Determination

"But here let me say that in dedication to peace in our determination and readiness collectively to sustain that peace, we are firmly joined with our NATO partners—as indeed we are with other friendly nations around the world."—Reuter.

Battle Of Sidi Ifni At Standstill

Rabat, Dec. 23.

Fighting between Spanish troops and Moroccan irregulars who attacked the Spanish enclave of Ifni, on the Moroccan Atlantic coast more than two weeks ago, has come to a standstill, according to reports reaching here today.

Latest reports said the Spanish forces had withdrawn from the mountain regions of Ifni and were encamped in a semi-circle of defensive trenches round the port of Sidi Ifni, the enclave's main town.

Usually reliable sources said here that the Moroccan government considers that the Ifni problem should be considered with other questions of Spanish-Moroccan relations.

The Moroccan Foreign Minister, Mr. Ahmed Balfrej, said last week that he favoured a solution by direct negotiation between the two countries, not by submitting the problem to the International Court at the Hague.—Reuter.

Maitland Rejoins The Tories

London, Dec. 23.

Mr. Patrick Maitland, Conservative Member of Parliament, has rejoined the Government party in Parliament after a spell as an "Independent" Conservative.

He was one of eight Conservatives who withdrew their support from the government party last May as a protest about its Suez policy and against threatened developments in its Cyprus policy.

In a statement tonight Mr. Maitland said he had applied for "restoration of the Conservative Party Whip"—a phrase meaning inclusion in the Government party in Parliament—and that this had been granted by Mr. Harold Macmillan, the Party leader.—Reuter.

TRUNK RAILWAY TO OPEN

Paris, Dec. 23.

West China's new trunk railway, the Pao-Kai-Chengtu Line, will be formally opened to traffic on New Year's Day, Radio Peking announced.

This new 608-kilometre line runs through very difficult regions, it said, adding that several tens of thousands of railway builders have been engaged on the job since it began.—France-Press.

No China Mail For Two Days

There will be no publication of the China Mail tomorrow (Christmas Day) or on Thursday (Boxing Day).

The China Mail will reappear on Friday and will be on the streets by noon.

The South China Morning Post will appear as usual tomorrow but will cease publication until Saturday.

NEW SUEZ CANAL CO. BOARD MEETS

Paris, Dec. 23.

The new board of the Suez Canal Company met today for the first time and appointed Mr. Michael Babinington Smith as Director designated by the British Government.

Three other British directors have been appointed to the board, which is reduced in number from 21 to 12. They include Sir Francis Wylie, and Mr. Robert Spencer, two of whom were both director on the old board. The fourth remains to be appointed by the British Government.

Mr. Babinington Smith, of the Bank of England, replaces Sir Alexander Cadogan who resigned.

M. Jacques Georges-Picot was appointed Chairman, and Vice-count de Rohan Vice-Chairman. A second Vice-Chairman is expected to be appointed later by the British Government, the largest single shareholder.

The decision to reduce the board was taken at a general meeting of shareholders which approved several other resolutions for re-shaping the company.


The company has been transformed into a giant investment trust extending its activities to financial and industrial projects.—Reuter.

Spectators Injured

Sao Paulo, Dec. 23.

Some 150 spectators were injured at a local football match at Sao Jose do Rio, in the Sao Paulo State yesterday, when gales blew down a stadium wall.

Of the 30 injured still detained in hospital, one is in a serious condition.—France-Press.



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AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 and 9.30 P.M.



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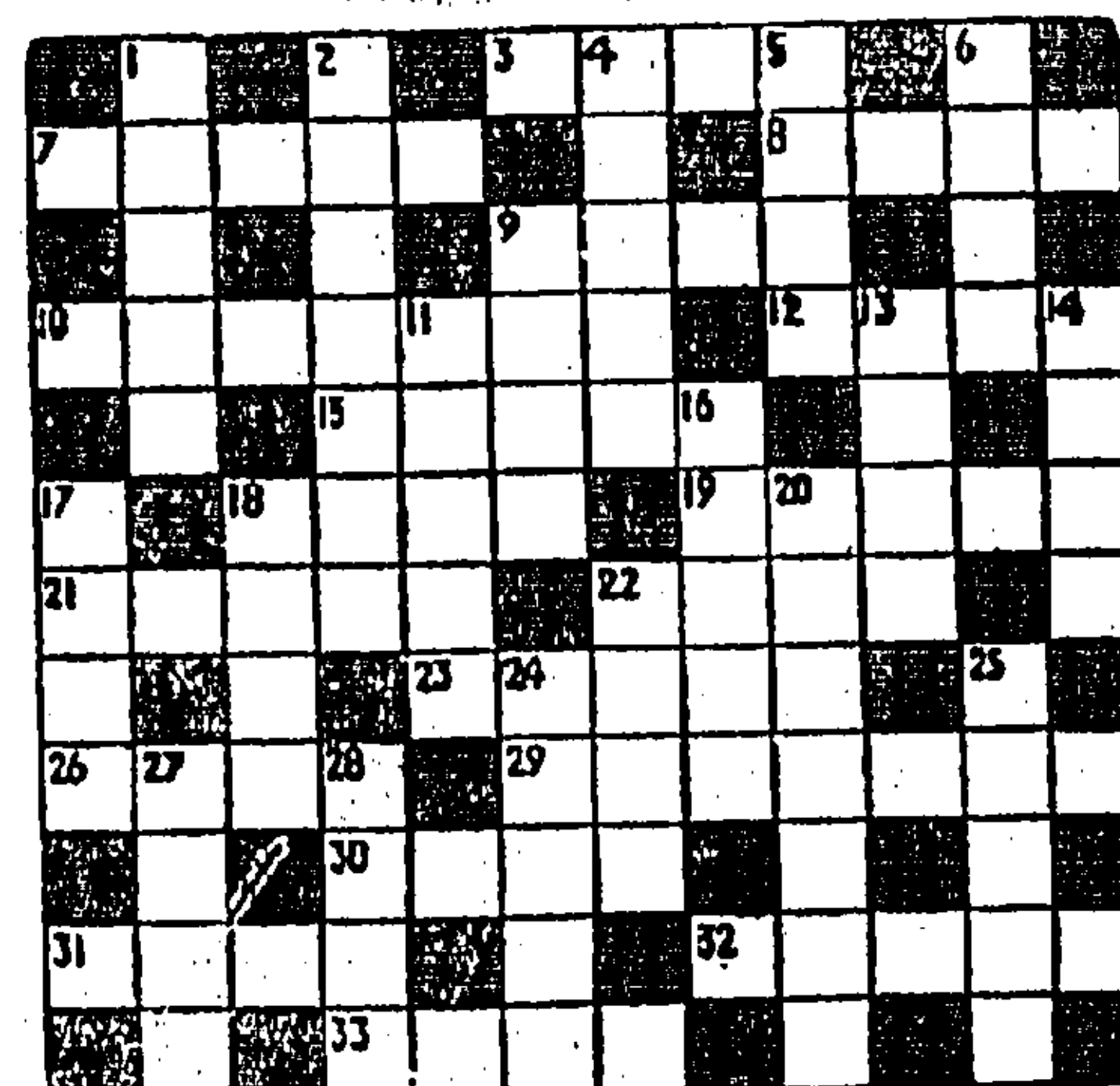
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FOX TECHNICOLOR "LOVE ME OR LEAVE ME"
CARTOONS Starring: DORIS DAY
An M.G.M. CinemaScope Picture in Color
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Thursday, 26th Dec. At 12.30 p.m.
20th Century-Fox presents
In CinemaScope & Color
"THE LIEUTENANT WORE SKIRTS"
Starring: Tom EWELL • Shore NORTH
Friday, 27th Dec. At 12.30 p.m.
Grace KELLY • Stewart GRANGER in
"GREEN FIRE"
An M-G-M Picture
Saturday, 28th Dec., At 12.30 p.m.
20th Century-Fox presents in CinemaScope
"SEVEN CITIES OF GOLD"
Starring: Richard EGAN • Anthony QUINN
— At Reduced Prices —

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS
3 Spurns on (4).
7 10½-foot Europeans! (5).
8 Great desire (4).
9 Approached amily (4).
10 Hades (7).
12 Miss Lanchester (4).
16 Square, perhaps, in maths (5).
18 Pop on a chessboard (4).
19 Refine on rails (5).
21 Creature which has a good time (6).
22 "Hawatha," for example (4).
23 Frolicsome fliers (5).
25 Delfo (4).
26 Was most indignant (7).
30 Possibly fair reporter's work (4).
31 It weakens one's spirits (4).
32 Some lions (5).
33 Ladies in retirement (4).

DOWN
1 Be rude! (5).
2 Common soldier? Surely not! (7).
4 American soldier got some tuition (5).
5 Swagger team? (4).
6 Performances (4).
8 The bashful author (4).
11 The "business" end of a spur (4).
13 Groundsmen may use it (4).
14 She makes little money either way (4).
16 Keep the fire going in Staffs (5).
17 P.W.'s return in exchange (4).
18 Battle after Preston (4).
20 Make good (7).
22 A victim naturally (4).
23 Poplar tree (5).
25 Uses one's loy (5).
27 Only the frenzied run it (8).
28 Count feet (8).

MONDAY'S SOLUTION—Across: 1 Martyr, 7 Idea, 9 Duty, 10 Macaw, 11 Tins, 13 Competitor, 15 Hyde, 16 Elan, 19 Minor canon, 22 Rapt, 24 C-left, 25 Irish, 26 Amen, 27 Element, 28 was, 29 Assam (rev.), 30 Thyme (line), 31 Remains, 32 Victoria, 33 Sows, 34 Diner, 35 Ghent, 36 Clear, 37 Foulton, 38 Ample, 39 Mortar, 40 Coins, 41 Naira, 42 Acme.

S'PORE'S 1ST MAYOR-ELECT RELEASED BY POLICE

Singapore, Dec. 23.
Ong Eng-guan, a Chinese politician whose detention by police today nearly robbed him of his chance of becoming Singapore's first mayor, will be given another chance for election tomorrow.
Mr Ong, 32, a member of the far-left Peoples Action Party, was arrested with four other City Councillors after students had demonstrated with fireworks in front of the City Hall.

When police tried to break up the demonstration — in support of a "clean up the city council" campaign — the Mayor-elect shouted that he, as a Councillor, had given permission for it.

Scuffling started, and the five Councillors were detained with 14 students and taken to the Central Police Station.

One hour later, after other PAP Councillors had flocked to the station to protest, all 19 detainees were released after their names and addresses had been taken.

Despite a hectic race back to the City Hall, the Councillors were too late for the formal meeting that was to have installed the Mayor.

Opposition Conservatives, Liberals and Socialists had gone, and the meeting had been declared postponed for want of a quorum.

Upheld

Mr Ong shouted: "No power on earth will stop this meeting from being held," but the postponement was upheld by the Minister for Local Government, Jeebe Abdul Hamid Bin Haji Jumat. Another meeting will be held tomorrow.

The PAP had a sweeping victory in the council elections last weekend.

A government press statement issued tonight said: "Immediately before the time of the inaugural meeting of the City Council (this afternoon, a number of people were creating a disturbance by firing crackers on the city hall steps in full view of the police."

"The police intervened and tried to stop the disturbance, as those firing crackers did not have the necessary permit."

Intervention

"After the police had begun to record the names and addresses of those firing the crackers, two City Councillors intervened. They claimed authority to grant permission for the firing of crackers, and forcefully demanded that the police should desist from further action."

The behaviour of the councillors obliged the police to take the Councillors and those being questioned to a police station. They left immediately after names and addresses had been taken."

"Those being questioned" in the police statement, included two Councillors, bringing the total to four.—Reuter.

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Cardigans
and other 'foll-fashion' Knitwear
Available at:
Lane, Crawford Ltd.
Wing On Co., Ltd.
Dragon Sash Co., Ltd.

Luxury's Lap!

New York, Dec. 23.
For the last-minute Christmas shopper who wants to put his love in the lap of luxury, a New York furniture store today offered a milk-upholstered chair—\$698.—United Press.

BRITISH NUCLEAR WARHEADS

London, Dec. 23.
British scientists are perfecting a nuclear warhead for the American missiles which are to be delivered next year, the Daily Express reported today.

New nuclear tests would be held at Christmas Island, probably in February, in order to make Britain independent of the American government on the matter of missile warheads, if Congress refused to modify the McMahon Law, the paper said.

The McMahon Law forbids the United States to share nuclear weapons or information with other countries.—France-Press.

Bible For Governor

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, is to be presented with a Bible by the British and Foreign Bible Society, Hongkong Auxiliary, this afternoon.

The specially bound and inscribed bilingual volume of the New Testament will be presented by Lieut-Col F. E. Jewkes, President of the Auxiliary. Col Jewkes will be accompanied to Government House by the Secretary, Mr I. R. A. MacCallum, and the Treasurer, Mr G. Padgett.

This noon Sir Alexander will receive a farewell presentation from the Cotton Spinners' Association.

JUNGLE REDS SURRENDER IN MALAYA

Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 23.
The Malayan Government today reported further successes against Communist terrorists and action taken against Chinese school students and teachers.

In a series of communiques, the Government said that a branch of the Malayan Communist Party in Johore State, Southern Johore, had surrendered. The message said that terrorists in the branch, led by their commander, Goh Peng-kong, had surrendered to a police officer after negotiating by letter for surrender.

They brought with them a carbine, a sub-machine gun and three rifles.

The government statement said: "These six surrenders will disrupt the Communist terrorist organisation in Labis-Bekok area."

News of the surrender had been withheld since November 18 for security reasons.

Another message from the Government said that three more terrorists had surrendered in Johore State—which borders on the British Crown Colony of Singapore—on December 11.

Another terrorist was killed and a second wounded in Perak State, Northern Malaya, by a patrol of the First Battalion, the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

The action took place on the night of December 22.—Reuter.

THEY STAND BY

British Borneo, Dec. 23.
British technicians employed by the Shell Oil Company in British Borneo have been alerted to go to Indonesia to replace Dutch Shell technicians should the need arise.

Thirty-five technicians in Borneo are believed to have been told to stand by.—Reuter.

Ripe Old Age

Charleston, Virginia, Dec. 23.
Mrs Sarah M. Paul has died here aged 110, leaving 69 direct descendants. Her husband died six years ago aged 105.—China Mail Special.

First German Postwar Rocket

Bremen, Dec. 23.
The first German postwar rocket will be launched next spring, it was disclosed here today.

The rocket will be launched as part of experiments during the International Geophysical Year.

The German rocket will have a single stage three metres long and aims at reaching a height of 60 kilometres to obtain information on the stratosphere.—France-Press.

A CHAT WITH ST. NICK

Hull, Dec. 23.
Telephone subscribers here can talk to Santa Claus by dialing Hull Central 211.

Engineers worked through the weekend setting up a 300-line exchange to handle the 30,000 calls expected from children all over Britain in the next two days.—United Press.

Dine out this Christmas...



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MENU
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ROAST TOM TURKEY & CHIPPOLATA SAUSAGES
CHESTNUT STUFFING, CRANBERRY SAUCE
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ASTOR: Technicolor Cartoons from Fox
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AT 2.30 & 5.30 P.M.

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A PAUL CENZER—L. A. MAXWELL PRODUCTION
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GAUSS STRUCHIKOVA
NIKOLAI FADDEYEV
and the BOLSHOI THEATRE BALLET
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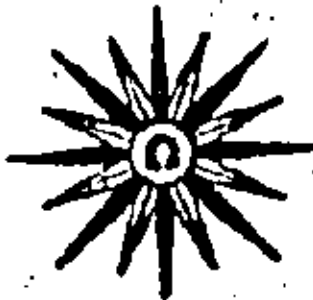
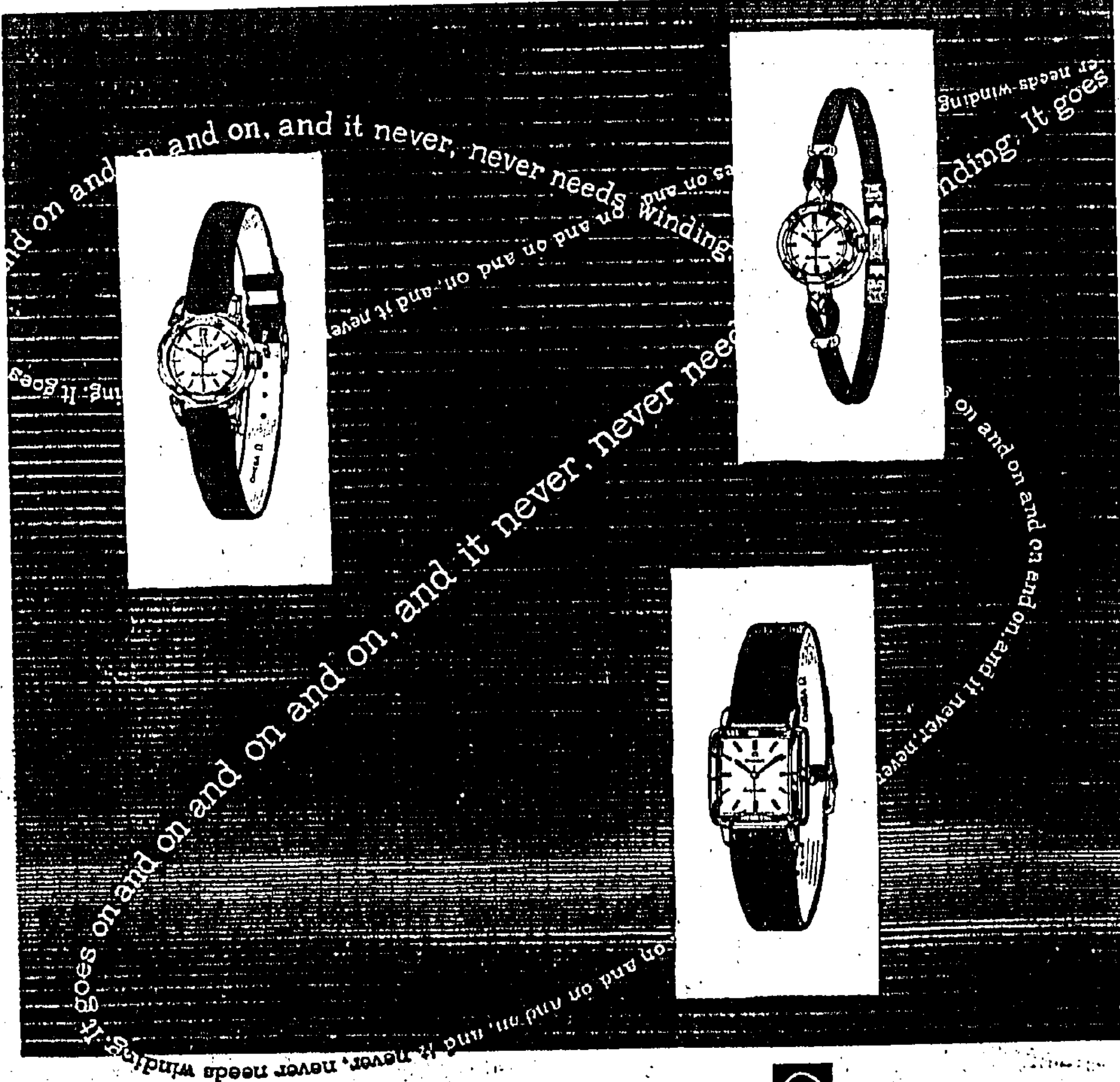
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The Miraculous Moment of Birth

CHAPTER 3

The Day Christ was born

by **GEORGE GALE**

THE squall thickened into storm. Hail spattered down with a sudden fury. The olive trees flinched in the gusty wind. Deep grey clouds gathered in heaped masses about the hills.

They sheltered under an old olive whose grey and twisted trunk was broad enough to stop the wind. The rain and hail stopped, the clouds thinned, there was some pale yellow sunlight.

Joseph and Mary went on, down into Bethlehem, shining from the ruin, running with mud.

A pair of mongrels scavenged around the edges of houses. A handful of children ran out and began scratching out their hopscotch pitch on a piece of waste land.

A couple of boys ran out, knocking a ball to and fro with their hands.

The rain water, running off the roofs and slopes, had turned the mud and stone streets into a small stream.

Mary and Joseph stumbled, avoiding the wet, trying to walk on the higher stones. They moved slowly.

At the inn

JOSEPH was anxious to get back to shelter. The yellow sun had gone again; the clouds massed again; again the wind had early rain in it, the first scatterings before the main cloud broke.

Cypresses swung, leaves scattered, men on the roofs covered and caught their cloaks tightly around them.

They reached the inn. Like many other of the houses it was built partly over a cave let into the hillside.

Thus beneath its main room was a chamber where the land-

The world
was careless,
this was
just one
more birth
... birth
and death
were
natural ...

lord kept his cows in winter, and where in summer the children could play, away from the harsh heat. To this chamber Joseph led Mary.

Joseph prepared the mattress, shaking it out and smoothing it over. He would be glad when it was all over.

He could be near, he could smooth her brow, or let her



AND THERE WERE IN THE SAME COUNTRY SHEPHERDS, ABIDING IN THE FIELD, KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT.

he bring her some soup. Joseph went away, up the rough steps into the brighter room overhead.

The inn room was filling up for the evening; soon, after the evening meal had been eaten, it would be full. He now washed his hands before he made the

supper.

He borrowed a pot from the landlady and made a barley soup. The landlady's wife, hovering around him, asked him after his wife's condition.

"Any time now," he said. "But she is hungry."

"Here," said the landlady's wife. "She'll like this."

She gave him some small pieces of mutton, ready cut up. He tossed them in the soup, and held the pot over the open stove. He rubbed some garlic round the edge.

The bread

THE landlady's wife went away and returned with a bowl of raisins and figs and dates. There was no sugar then; fruits like this they used for sweetening.

And also she brought a leather jug of pale white wine and a loaf of lumpy bread. Joseph returned, below to Mary. He held her shoulder as she sat up. She broke the bread into pieces. It was so baked that by tearing a piece off and folding it, it was made into a kind of spoon.

The lamp light flickered in the uneasy wind, shining on the cows' flanks and steaming straw. This dark basement was warm with animals, and the smell was half sweet and half sour.

With this she ate her soup. No one ever slept in the dark, for fear. Joseph went off and returned with a lamp, a simple pot with a spout and a lid. He had lit it from the landlady's fire and this he now placed on a ledge by her side.

She said to him that she would rest awhile, and would

he bring her some soup. Joseph went away, up the rough steps into the brighter room overhead.

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"Had I better get the midwife?" Joseph asked. Mary nodded. It was almost time. Joseph hurried away, down the empty lanes, now black except where the lamps shone through the narrow window. The midwife came almost at once.

First she must get her mixture. It was in a phial her own extract from herbs mixed with wine. It had been proved time and time again.

Relief

THIS was no magic philtre, but a simple lessener of pain. It would help; she had always used it. The last time she had used it was the other day when a thief had been dying from crucifixion and the pain had been too great, so then she had given him some.

She was a shrewd old woman and had no time for absurd practices. She was glad when she got to Mary that Mary had no dead scorpion tied in crocus green cloth around her waist, nor was the midwife one of those who believed that powdered ivory drunk in water made for an easy birth.

The midwife went to Mary. She made her comfortable.

"We will want some water and some salt," she said to Joseph. He knew that, and also he had the long strips of cloth ready to wrap the child in.

One of the landlady's servants came down to milk the cows. Mary twisted on her mattress. Outside it was now quite dark and in the hills there was only the noise of the wind

as it ceaselessly moved; but above, in the inn room where the fire, flared and smoked and the carelessly tended roof dripped and the large oil burners waved their lights, it was full of careless noise. Joseph went up there, leaving the women.

The room is crowded now; this is the time for relaxation. In a corner, left alone, two dark-skinned men sat playing dice. Their helmets lay on the rough table, and their cloaks by the side.

They were short, rough tunics and their feet were bound with leather thongs which held leather soles in place.

They were Egyptians, but also soldiers, members of one of Caesar's legions. They talked idly, as they played their dice, of women and the weather, of this wretched country they were in, of their officers, and of money.

"When are we going to get paid off with these new bonuses, eh?" says one. "Don't believe it," says the other.

"Everybody's saying that the Emperor has given bonuses, cash mind you, not land, cash, to every soldier who has finished his turn."

"Well, I've finished my turn and nobody's said anything to me about cash bonuses."

"I tell you it's true."

"I'll believe it when I hear it. Come on, your throw; beat that."

An important caravan had come in. An official was travelling south with his guard, and because of the storm had decided to stop here for the night.

Joseph remembered seeing the elaborate horse-drawn litter in the inn's courtyard; and now the official was lounging on the landlady's bed, and a couple of children were feeding him with salt fish from Galilee.

"Come now, the midwife called from below to Joseph. He started and hurried down. Mary's face now shone with sweat."

"Hold her with me," said the midwife. The cows stood careless; above, the soldiers and this girl and the official and the villagers were careless.

The night and the wind were careless. Augustus in Rome was careless; so too was Herod. The world was careless; this was just one more birth and there were thousands being born this minute and thousands dying.

Birth and death were natural and life was cheap and there was a thin and ready cry in the cellar.

The midwife bathed the infant in the warm water Joseph had prepared, to wash it clean.

She rubbed it over with the salt, for that was thought to toughen the skin.

The manger

THEN she bound him all over with strips of cloth.

Thus, she thought, would see that his legs grew straight and strong and not weak and twisted.

There was a feeding trough to hand which Joseph had washed and filled with straw and covered with a shirt.

And Mary "wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger."



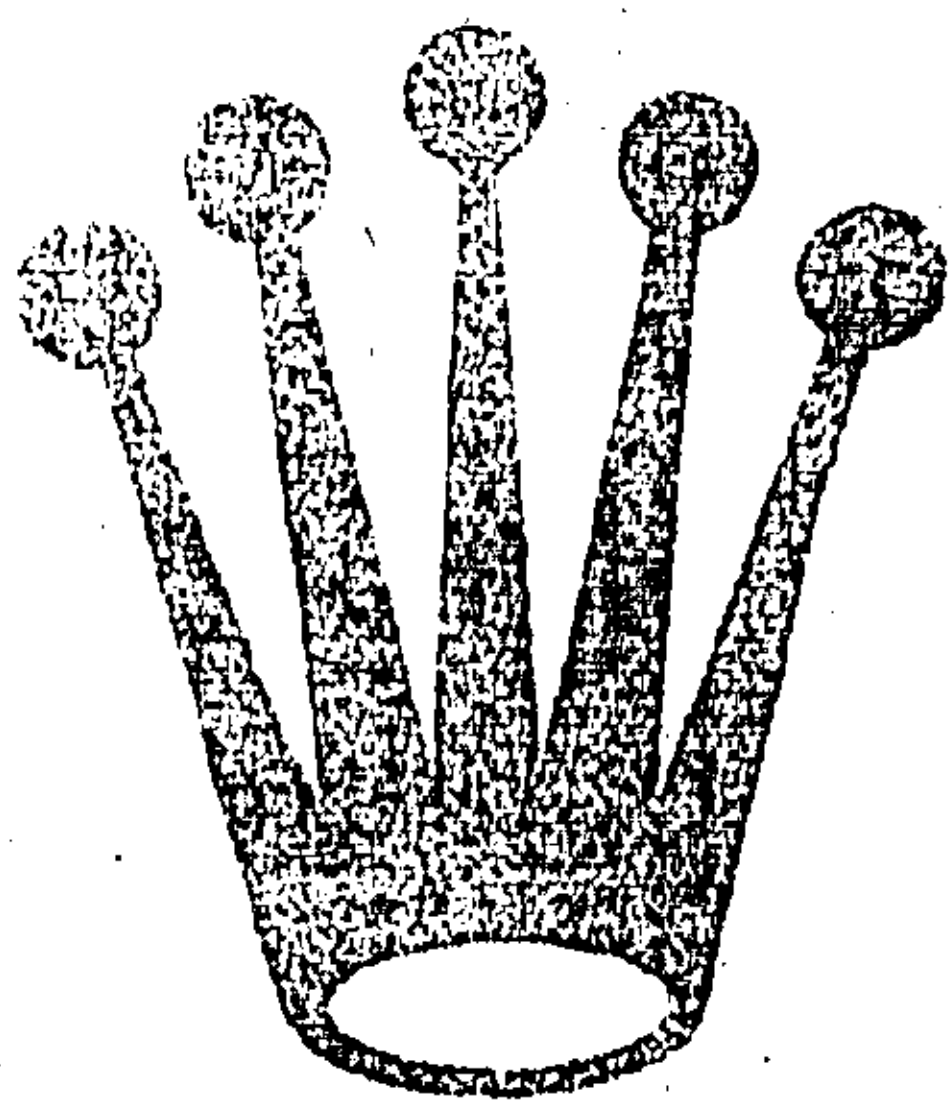
Prince Philip begins his plan to bring Buckingham Palace up to date. Red plush upholstery is abolished, electric lighting is installed and Muggenidge is appointed to Otville's job.

OLD LOW'S ALMANACK-

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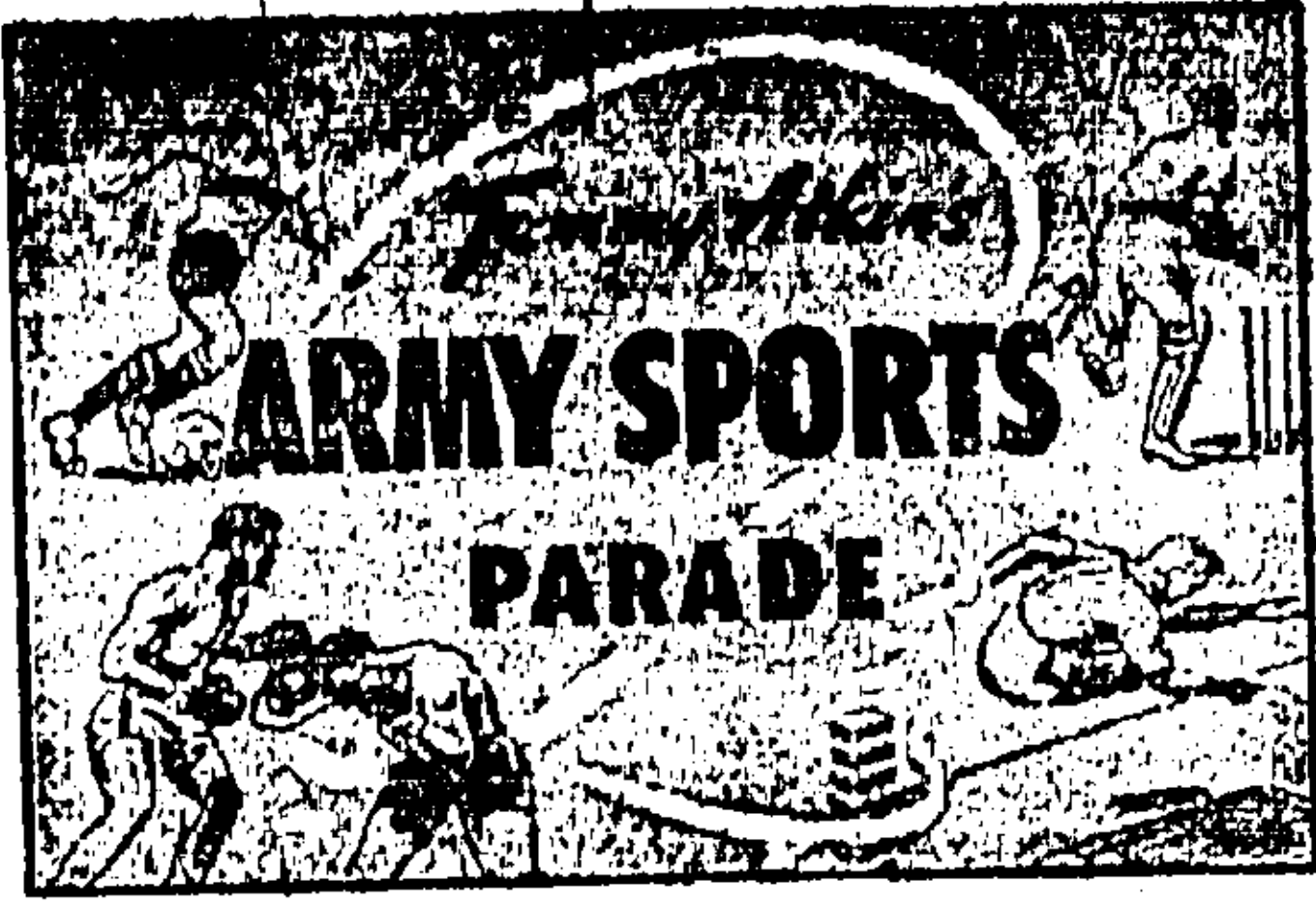
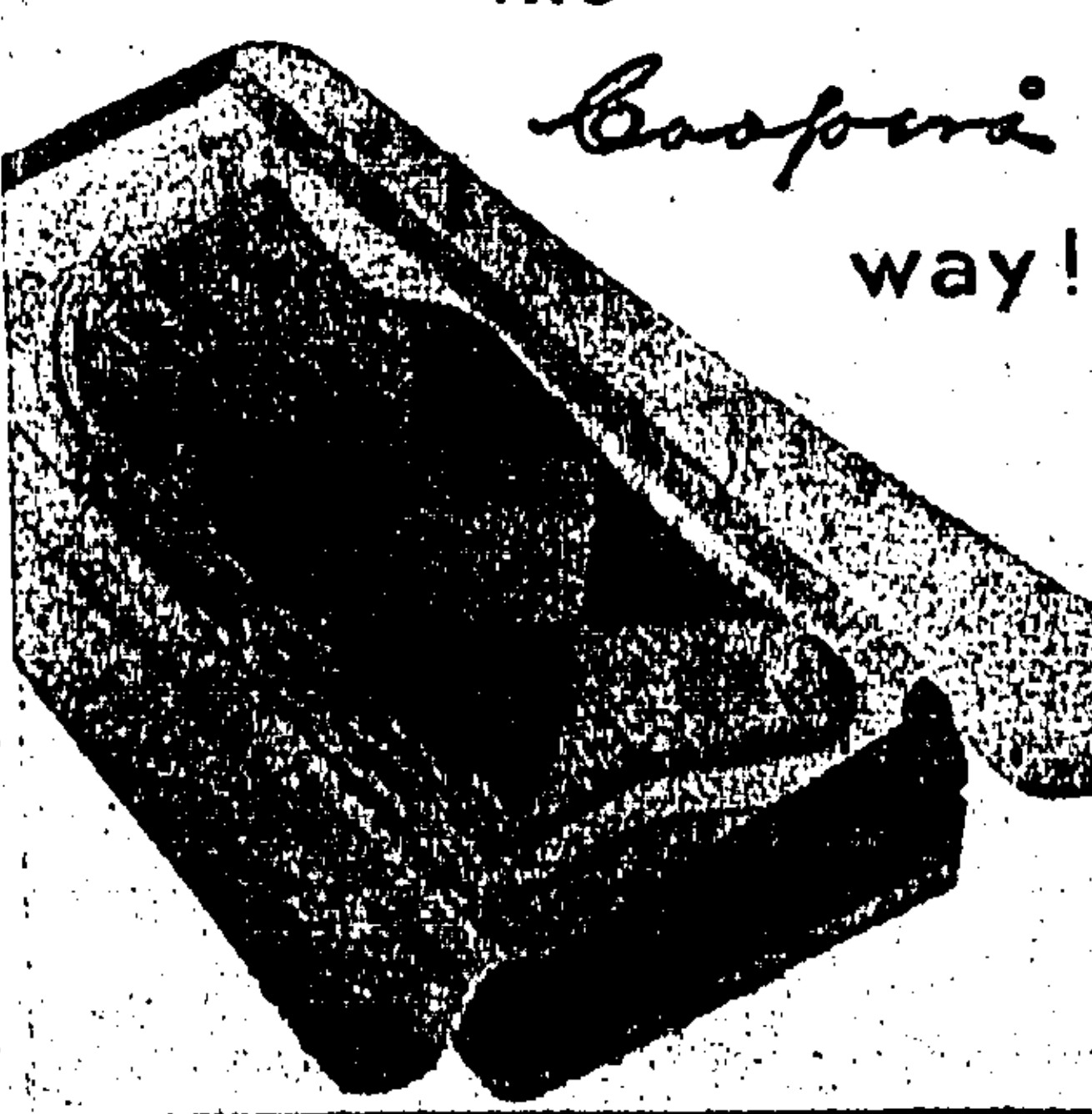
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way!



The spot of honour this week is awarded to an elderly bewhiskered gentleman traditionally garbed in a long red gown trimmed with white fur, known to all as Father Christmas, and while he holds court over these holidays, sportsmen in the main can relax from their athletic endeavours.

Prior to his arrival, however, the boxing team of the 1 E. Lancers, "came to town" and in an exciting match with the 8th Destroyer Squadron, Royal Navy, were beaten for the "Red Duster" Shield by the narrowest of margins, one point.

The boxing was spirited throughout, with no less than six of the eleven contests ending inside the distance, and interest was maintained to the end.

The most staggering part of the proceedings, however, from the Infantrymen's point of view was the wonderful hospitality laid on for them.

Arriving on board, they had a really fine lunch, with a trip round the ship occupying the afternoon, and so to the boxing where the hosts also provided the excellent prizes awarded. Not content with this, the Senior Service "laid on" water transport across the harbour for all the unit's spectators, and ferried them back afterwards, and as if this wasn't enough for one day they had their visitors completely "fed up" after the scrapping by providing an enormous supper.

From the East Lancers, boxing Officer, Lieut. Redmond, downwards, all the Army units for that they had been treated right royally, and were loud in their praises of Navy hospitality, and asked particularly whether I could add a further word of thanks on their behalf, a request I am delighted to agree to. Thank you, indeed, 8th Destroyer Squadron, Royal Navy.

Cricket

The Army Small Units Cricket League is nearing its climax and the position, to say the least, is interesting.

33 General Hospital, who have been cock-of-the-walk nearly all the way, suffered a couple of reverses when victory seemed almost certain and with one more game to play are one point behind CRE, who have completed their fixtures.

79 Company RASC are a further four points behind with two games in hand, bracketed with 6 COD, who have three matches to play, one of which is with the "Medics". It would seem that this clash will be the deciding one, although any untoward result from the top six teams could throw all surmises overboard. What an ideal way to finish up a League, with the result depending on the very last game.

In the New Year a knockout tournament for both Major and Minor Units will commence and the draw and prospects will be discussed in a later column.

As there have been several important changes in the rules of Basketball, the DOPT has organised two demonstration teams to play at the 48 Brigade court, Sek Kong, on Friday, January 3, commencing at 1800 hrs.

It is hoped that Officers 1/c Basketball, the teams, and officials will do all they can to attend this demonstration so that the rules will be quite clear to all when the season starts early in the new year.

A further demonstration will be given, either on the Island or in Kowloon at an early date.

Hockey

There has been little activity in the hockey world, 1/10 Gurkha Regt's debut by 1-0 of the RASC was the only Major League result recorded, while in the Small Units KO competition 33 General Hospital bowed out to District Workshops REME in the last match of the quarter-finals by a score of 2-0.

The draw for the last hurdle but one sees the two favourites, Command Workshops REME and 6 COD fortunate enough to avoid one another. 6 COD are as big a certainty as it is possible to be to reach the final, and should have no difficulty in removing a weakened District Workshops XI who have, I understand, been forced to drop out of the League because they cannot make a side each week.

Workshops in the other half have a really tough match in front of them, Dark horses Command Pay Office have played some excellent hockey of late and their last win over 158 Battery RA convinced me that they won't go under without a stiff fight, and although I expect Gurkha to just pull it

off, I shall not be surprised if "Pay" win or force a draw. In the Major and Minor Leagues there has been very little activity, the only game known to have been played saw 1/10 Gurkha Regt too good for 8 Coy RASC by three clear goals.

On the subject of matches your Secretaries are voicing the almost eternal complaint, please send in results. I know it's not always convenient to draft a letter, but a telephone call giving the details will suit for the first step and confirmation can follow at your leisure.

All clubs, except perhaps the one at the bottom, like to know how they stand and I'm afraid League tables which show no alteration from the last one published are of little service to readers.

To save your Secretaries from developing ulcers, please add this to your list of New Year resolutions.

Who would be a football forecaster? The uncertainty of the game is, of course, the life blood of the sport, but who would have dared to assert that RAF Island would beat RAF Kai Tak and by 3-1. Surely only the most avid Island supporter, but that really was the result although I admit I telephoned both teams before I would believe it.

This result must make 1 Green Howards, among others, very happy as it reduces the Airman's lead to one point and brings the top five clubs into the picture again with more than a chance. Thank you, RAF Island!

SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE RACING MADE BY OWNER

By MICHAEL WEBB

London, Dec. 24.

Suggestions to improve racing in Britain, mainly for the benefit of the public rather than the owners and trainers, have been made by Yorkshire owner Mr Phil Bull.

Stocky, red-bearded Mr Bull, among the most knowledgeable on the affairs of the British turf, made the proposals at the historic Gimcrack Club dinner at York, to which he was invited as a guest following his victory in the Gimcrack Stakes in August with his two-year-old Phelidippides.

The race, instituted in 1840, was named after Gimcrack, a racehorse foaled in 1768. He was only 56 inches high, one of the smallest racehorses to win fame, but won 27 of his 35 races.

For 111 years every owner of the Gimcrack winner has been invited to address the Gimcrack Club, which dates back to the latter part of the 18th century.

In his speech Mr Bull advocated the introduction of the American starting gate, a cine-film record of every race, a measure of centralisation and "straight declaration of runners."

While admitting that he found racing in this country more pleasant than any country overseas he was expertly critical of the facilities in Britain. Some of his ideas, however, may not be practicable for some time.

He said that in some respects racing facilities in Britain were woefully behind the times. "Only those who have seen the starts of races in America can appreciate how bad our starting is in comparison."

Rare Exceptions

"In the States it is the exception, the rare exception, for there to be more than a length between first and last as they leave the gate."

In Britain, where the races are started by the lifting of the tapes, occasionally fields of five or six runners start in Indian file with anything up to six or even ten lengths separating first and last. Once this is not because of untidy behaviour.

Mr Bull's suggestion would obviously be a great success in spring races, where often a bad start can be fatal. In long distance races, the start is comparatively unimportant and the American gate would not allow the favoured slow start by some jockeys, who are content to tuck their horses in behind a group and to save speed for a late run.

The cost of installing the gates would most probably be too great at present when most race-

course executives are concentrating on larger stakes and improving facilities. Some narrow courses too would have to be altered for a big field to start with gates.

On filming races, Mr Bull said he was impressed with the system used in Venezuela where every race is cine-recorded.

"Eighteen minutes after the winner had passed the post I was shown a complete slow motion cine-record of the race from start to finish," he added.

Mr Bull also urged the publication of photographs of all finishes of races.

"To ask a judge to identify four horses and assess two distances is, on occasions, to ask him to do the impossible. The photograph is there, so why not make use of it?"

These ideas seem excellent. The cost is again the drawback for filming the entire race but, as Mr Bull pointed out, there seems no reason why the photo-finish should be suppressed just because the judge decides not to call for it.

The First Six

The distances dividing the first six could be determined accurately to the benefit of the form student and handicapper.

Mr Bull said he thought racing in Britain would be improved by "some measure of centralisation—just sufficient to swallow up those meetings which seem unable to provide reasonable stake money for an owner to run for, and reasonable amenities for the public."

In urging the overnight declaration of runners, Mr Bull said: "To have an accurate list of runners in the press every morning would benefit everyone."

"Overnight declaration, efficiently organised, would also mean race-cards printed with runners, jockeys and the draw."

The objections of the owners and trainers that decisions cannot always be made until the day of the race were mostly misconceived and unconvincing, he added.—China Mail Special.



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SOUTH AFRICA 222 FOR TWO

Record Stand By McGlew And Goddard At Johannesburg

Johannesburg, Dec. 23.

Scoring at a brisk pace, South Africa made a satisfactory start to the season's First Test against Australia, at the Wanderers Ground today, reaching 222 for the loss of two wickets. More than an hour's playing time was lost through bad light and rain. Conditions were quite unsuited, and the crowd of 12,500 shivered at times in the cold weather.

On winning the toss, Jackie McGlew took Trevor Goddard with him to open the innings and they played together until after tea, putting on 170 for the first wicket.

This was the same first wicket total reached against England at Leeds two years ago when in the second innings of the Fourth Test McGlew hit 133 and Goddard 74.

Today's was the best first wicket stand for South Africa against Australia, beating the previous highest of 87 established 22 years ago, in Cape Town by Jack Siedle and Herby Wade.

After Goddard had been bowled for 90, McGlew went on to reach his first century against Australia, and was exactly 100 not out at the close. Goddard was trapped when playing back to Meekiff, the ball going off his bat on to the wicket. He batted for 210 minutes, hitting one six and ten fours in a steady innings.

His First Century

McGlew spurred to his century with a hook for six off Benaud and a square cut for four in the same over.

He had taken 280 minutes, hitting one six and 11 fours, but he did not score in the next 25 minutes and, with 20 minutes still to go, had light brought the day's play to an end.

McGlew gave one possible chance when 40, snickering Benaud between the wicket-keeper and slip fielder, otherwise he scored with shots all round the wicket and was particularly severe of Benaud who, apart from the six, was hooked for three fours in one over.

Neither Benaud nor Kilne, a left arm spinner, was able to turn the ball enough to trouble the batsmen.

McGlew and Goddard made a rather shaky start, but when they settled down they scored briskly, bringing up the partnership hundred in two hours. Goddard had scored 74 and McGlew 68 when rain sent the players to the pavilion.

The Only Slip

Goddard had an escape when, with the score 32, he was dropped at second slip by Peter Lorge off a cut which sent the ball straight to the fielder. After lunch when he snickered Benaud between wicket-keeper Wally Groot and the only slip, Bobby Simpson, just out of the reach of both.

Benaud, keeping a good length, but failing to get much turn on the ball, had five maidens in his 11 overs before tea. Once he was straight given mightily for six by Goddard.

McGlew and Goddard continued their stand after tea, but at 170 Goddard was bowled for 90.

South Africa's captain went on to reach his first century against Australia and at the close was undefeated with exactly 100 which had occupied 285 minutes and included one six and eleven fours.

He had given one possible chance, at 40, off a snick between wicketkeeper and slips, but otherwise scored well with shots all round the wicket. Meekiff had got rid of Goddard and he also bowled Nel, but

J. H. B. White stood firm with McGlew in a third wicket partnership which has so far put on 40 runs.—Reuter.

The Scoreboard

South Africa, 1st Innings	
McGlew, not out	100
Goddard, b Meekiff	90
J. Nel, b Meekiff	9
J. White, not out	19
Extras	9
Total (for 2 wickets)	222

—Reuter.

Sports Diary

TODAY

Tennis
Combined School v HK University
at C.R.C. 3 p.m.

Racing
Entries Close for Sixth Race Meeting.
at Noon.

Willie Towel In London For Non-Title Bout

London, Dec. 23. Willie Towel, South Africa's holder of the British Empire lightweight boxing title, arrived here today to prepare for his non-title fight against Cuba's Orlando Zulueta at London's Empress Hall on January 14.

Fight promoter Harry Levens said that if Towel defeated Zulueta there would be no stopping him. Fighting America's Joe Brown for the world title in London.—France-Press.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More Support For MacTavish

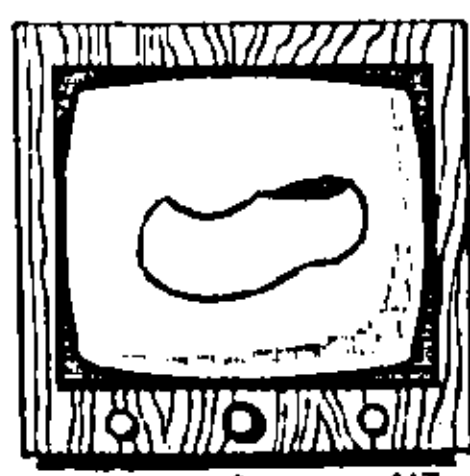
Sir,—Well done, MacTavish, and congratulations, China Mail, on the best football article of the season. The HKFA would be well advised to give serious thought to the whole idea of higher admission charges before they kill the golden goose. The idea of paying \$8 to see a League game is preposterous.

THE GIBBS BOYS.

Japan's Team For Alpine World Ski Championship

Vienna, Dec. 23. The official four-man Japanese team for the Alpine World Ski Championships at Badgastein next February arrived in St. Anton on the Arlberg Pass yesterday and started training today.

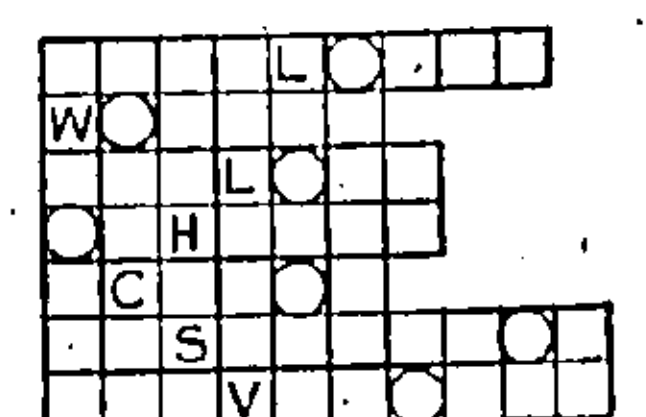
The team includes C. Igaya, Silver Medalist in the last Olympic Games.—Reuter.



- 1 Learning
- 2 Author
- 3 European country
- 4 Well read man
- 5 Plot
- 6 Christian name
- 7 Place of learning

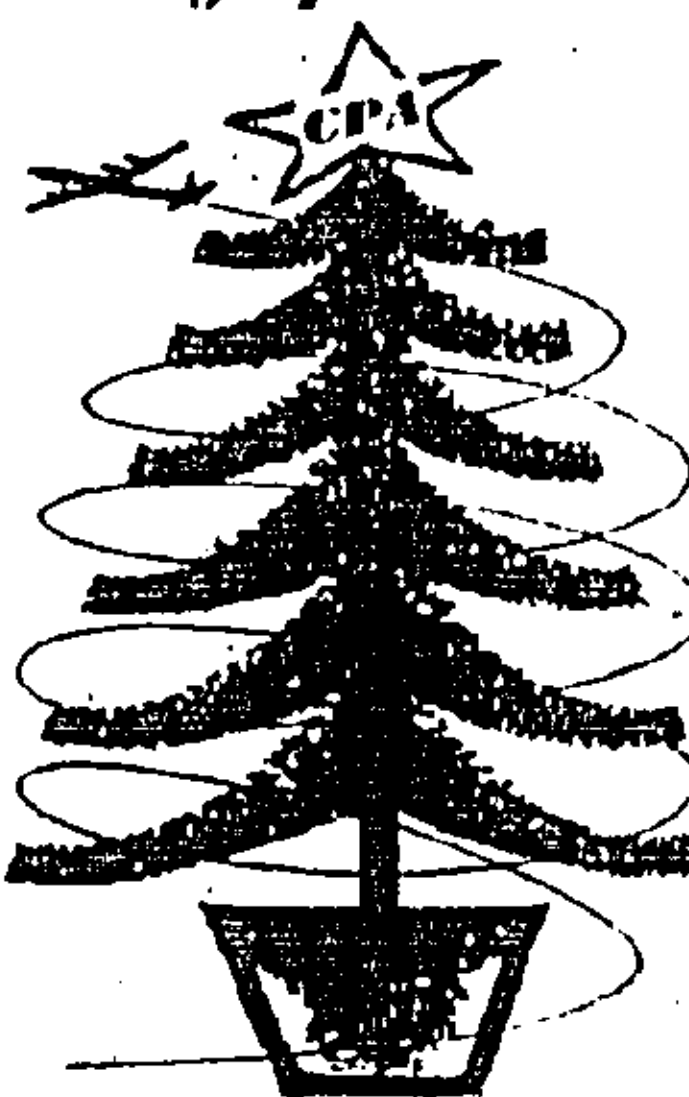
NAMESAKES

INSTRUCTIONS: Fill in the spaces against each of the clues below with a word related to my life. The letters in circles spell out my name. Who am I?

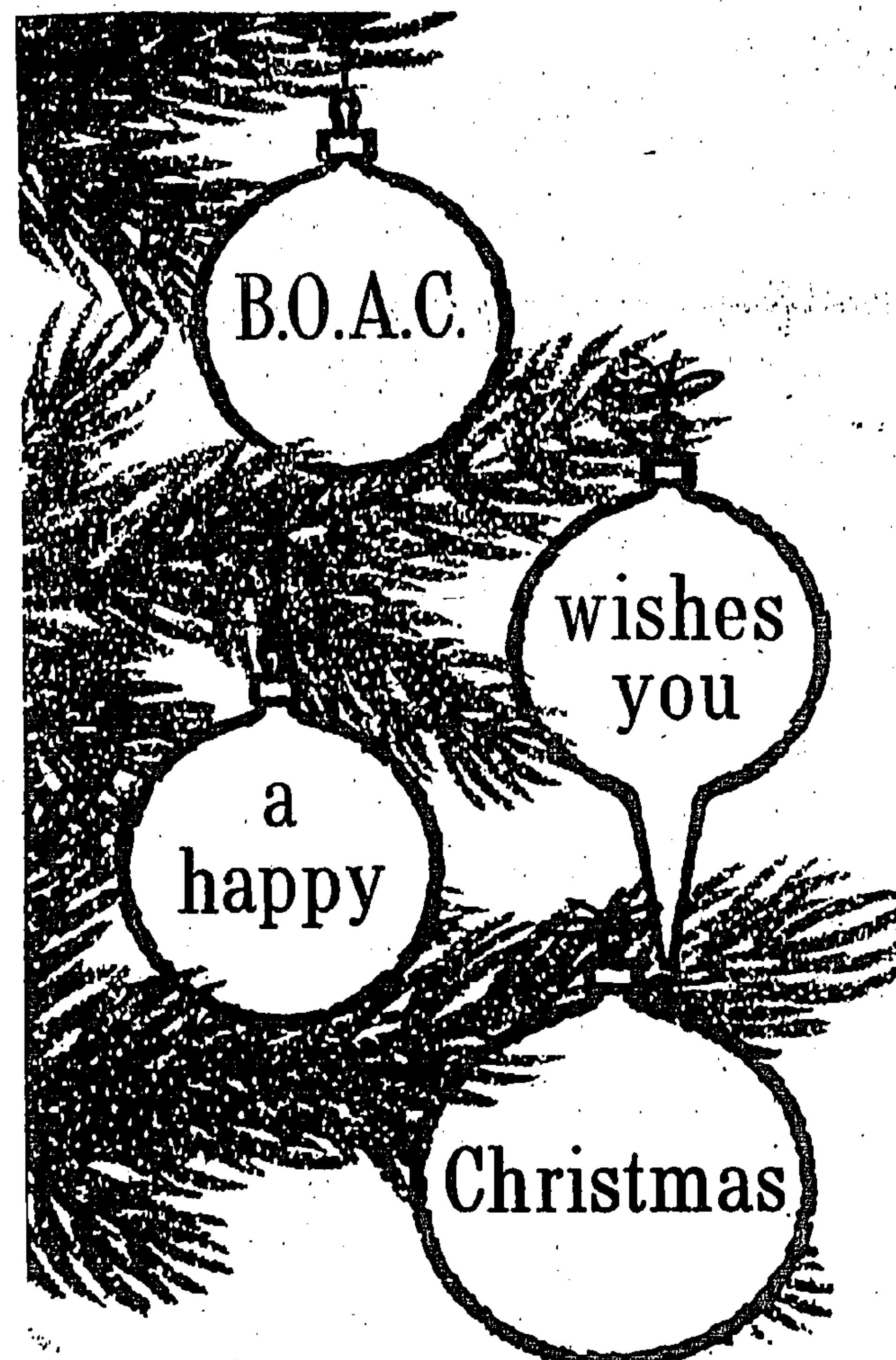


Solution on Page 9

Very specific...



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



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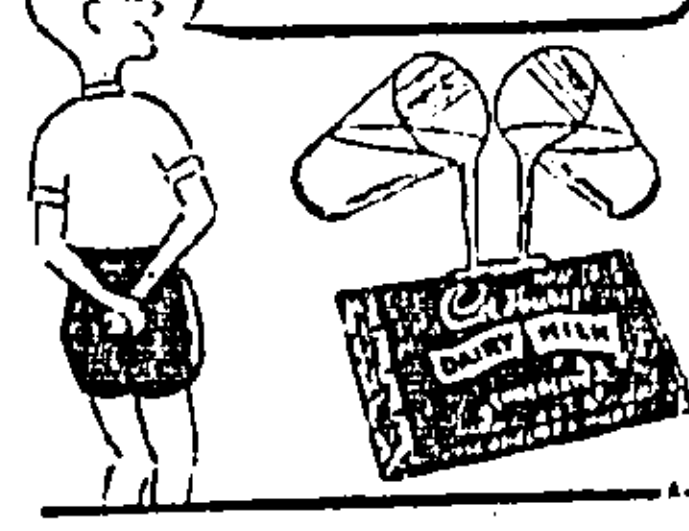
BRITISH OVERSEAS AIRWAYS CORPORATION

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis

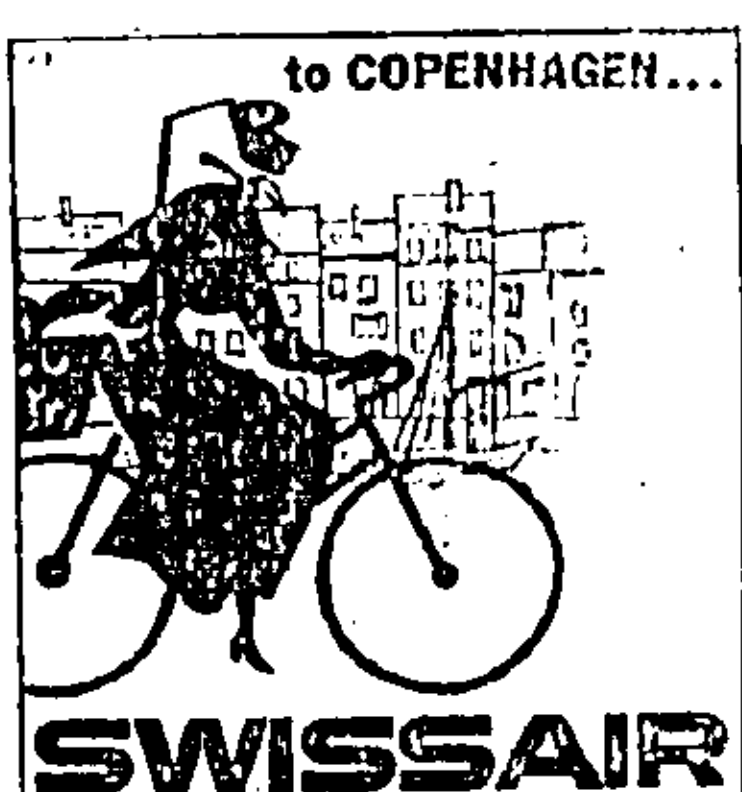
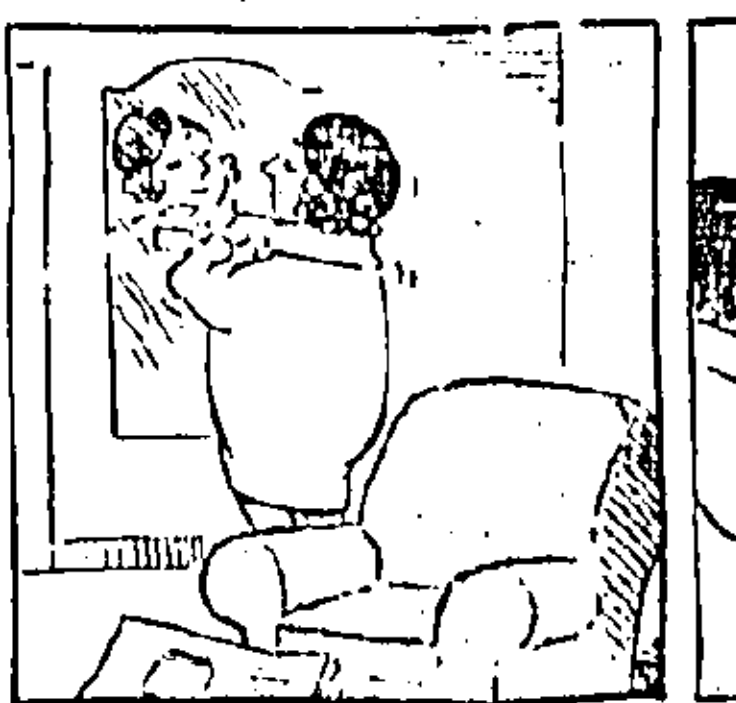


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FERD'NAND

By Mik



NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller

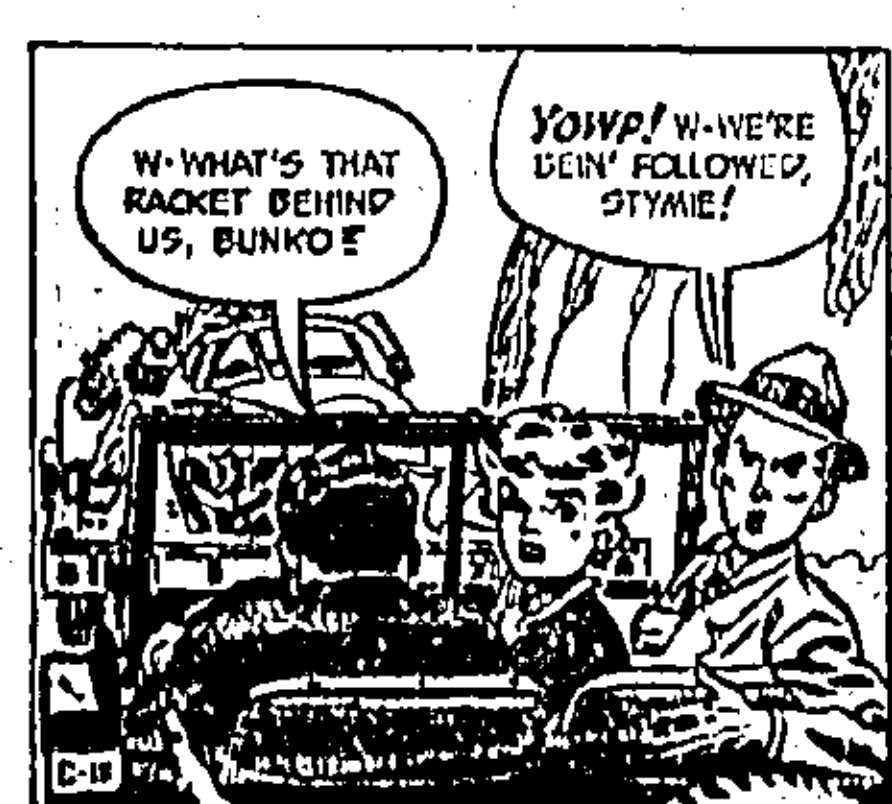


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JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



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CHRISTMAS
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NEW YEAR'S EVE
31st December

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'White' Santa Is Rehabilitated & 'Red' Santa Retires

By COLETTE BLACKMOORE

Warsaw, Dec. 23.

THAT well-known
refugee of Stalinism,
Santa Claus, is back
from his exile—but in
Poland some of his gifts
may be late this year.

The Government's imports of
oranges, lemons, raisins, nuts,
wines and other Christmas
rookies have not arrived yet.
Newspapers have in fact,
turned on the trade ministries
to inquire why the Christmas
dinner supplies promised more
than a month ago have not yet
reached the stores.

What good is a feast after
the dinner is over? said one
critical newspaper.

Formal Debut

But things could be worse.
After all, the Russian "Father
Frost" has been rebuffed. St.
Nicholas has been rehabilitated
—and Christmas trees and
decorations dominate market
places and sidewalks as in the
days of old.

St. Nick made his formal de-
but this year on December 6,
the Roman Catholic Church's
St. Nicholas Day. He rode
down the streets of the capital
dressed in the traditional long

fur-trimmed robe and high
bishop-like hat with a white
cross prominently stamped in
front.

Standing majestically in an
old convertible taxi and accom-
panied by a bevy of pretty girls,
the legendary patron of Chris-
tians cheer was driven through
the city by the Polish Motor
Association to distribute gifts to
the traffic policemen of War-
saw.

This is St. Nick's second re-
son back in the good graces of
the Communist regime.
During the years when
Stalin's iron-hand governed
Poland, the local authorities ig-
nored him in favour of Father
Frost, the Russian version of
Santa Claus.

Soviet Steppes

They tried to make the state-
ly, bearded gentleman from the
northern Soviet steppes the
Polish symbol of a non-religious,
Communist Christmas.

But when the snow flakes
started to fall after Poland's
October Revolution of 1956,
Father Frost did not appear,
and the Poles smilingly told

each other that he had gone
back to Moscow with Marshal
Konstantin Rokossovsky who
formerly headed Poland's
Ministry of Defence.

St. Nicholas's position is firm
once again as Poles, Christians
and Communists alike prepare
to celebrate the Yuletide with
caroling, feasting and religious
services.

On Christmas Eve Poles will
gather at home to break un-
leavened bread and eat a big
meal. For those who stick close
to the old traditions, this is the
climax of a day of fasting.

Breaking Bread

In the countryside some
people still follow the
ceremony of breaking bread in
their stables and feeding it to
their cattle. The legend says
that on Christmas Eve even the
cows speak with human voices.
Camp, the favourite fish of the
400,000 Jews living in Warsaw
before the war, is still eaten by
many Poles on this eve, to-
gether with mushroom or beet
soup, icilled dishes, cakes,
sweets, wines and vodka.
Sometimes the dinner runs into
twelve or more courses.

At midnight on December 24,
many Poles including Commu-
nist Party members attend
Mass.

Church-going Communists are
sometimes referred to here as
"radishes"—red on the outside,
but white inside.

The Polish Communist press
no longer plays down the reli-
gious side of Christmas and
no longer tries to picture the
holiday as one descending from
pagan times.

Carols

Now the newspapers and the
radio use the expression "Peace
on Earth goodwill to Men" when
they speak about Christmas.

Christmas carols including
those sung the world over like
"Silent Night" and "O Come All
Ye Faithful" are broadcast over
the radio. They can be bought
on records and earlier this
month the first real book of
Christmas Carols, beautifully
illustrated to be published in
Poland since the war was dis-
played in the bookshops.

Polish children also look for-
ward to receiving Christmas
presents. The toy shops are
featuring their newest and
brightest acquisitions which,
according to many parents, are
not varied enough to suit the
needs and inclinations of the
different ages.

Russian-made electric trains
costing around 800 zlotys
(\$240) are too expensive for
most families. Western man-
ufactured toys are sometimes
available in private and second-

hand shops, but they too sell
at high prices.

Christmas here just as in
other countries means many
things to many people.

To Polish Catholics it is an-
other occasion to give thanks
that Communism and the
Church are able to co-exist.

For almost everyone it is an-
other holiday from work and
another good excuse for en-
gaged eating, drinking and
merrymaking. —United Press.

MAIL Notices

The latest times of posting
shown below are those for un-
registered correspondence posted
at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest
posting times elsewhere which,
in general, are earlier than the
G.P.O. times can be ascertained
by enquiry at the local office.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

By Air
Thailand, India, Pakistan, Middle
East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe,
6 p.m.
Canada, U.S.A., 8 p.m.
Hawaii, 9 p.m.
Korea, 6 p.m.
By Surface
Indo-China, Thailand, 3 p.m.
Macao, 5 p.m.
China, People's Republic, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

By Air
Formosa, Okinawa, Japan, 10 a.m.
Philippines, North Borneo, 11 a.m.
Indo-China, France, 1 p.m.
Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New
Zealand, 2 p.m.
Hawaii, U.S.A., Canada, 6 p.m.
Formosa, Korea, 6 p.m.
Lao, 6 p.m.
Pakistan, Middle East, Great Bri-
tain, Europe, 8 p.m.

By Surface
Formosa, Korea, Noon.
Macao, 5 p.m.
China, People's Republic, 6 p.m.

A Romance, A Comedy And A Musical

"INTERLUDE" Star and
Metropole's choice for
the holiday season, is a
highly emotional film, made
against the background of
postwar Germany and
Austria. The film is made
by Universal-International,
and screened in Techni-
colour-CinemaScope.

The emotional drama has
June Allyson as an American
Government girl in Munich,
who falls in love with a famous
European symphony conductor,
(Rossano Brazzi). Their
romance achieves that classical
quality found in the screen's
finest love stories.

"Interlude" calls for Miss Al-
lyson to play the "other" woman
for the first time, and she gives
an extremely sensitive perfor-
mance in the role.

Rossano Brazzi who is re-
membered for his performances
in "Three Coins in the Foun-
tain," and "Summertime," re-
sponds with another great per-
formance.

The third in the ill-starred
team is Merleino Cook, the fine
young German actress who
gives a splendid performance as
Brazzi's mentally sick wife.
This highly emotional film calls
for, and receives three convinc-
ing leading roles.

Along with these leading roles
are the understanding and
played by Francoise Rosny;
the patient young American doctor,
played by Keith Andes; Jane
Wyatt as the energetic super-
visor of a US Information
Centre, and Frances Bergen as
June Allyson's best friend.

But apart from the fine
drama that is unrolled in
"Interlude," there are fine musical
sequences in which the works
of Beethoven, Mozart, Wagner,
Brahms, Liszt, and Schumann,
are heard.

Furthermore, the beautiful
backgrounds of historic Salz-
burg, Munich with its castles,
lakes, and countryside, made
this an unforgettable film. It is
splendid holiday entertainment
of the more sophisticated kind,
and in its quiet beauty, the
drama tenderly unfolds.

★ ★ ★
I HAVE said elsewhere,
that "April Love" now
at the Roxy and the Broad-
way is a kind of twentieth-

century pastoral. The chief
attraction about the film is
of course, the two stars, Pat
Boone and Shirley Jones. I
quite enjoyed this film as
light entertainment, and for
a change, I found the
singing very pleasant.

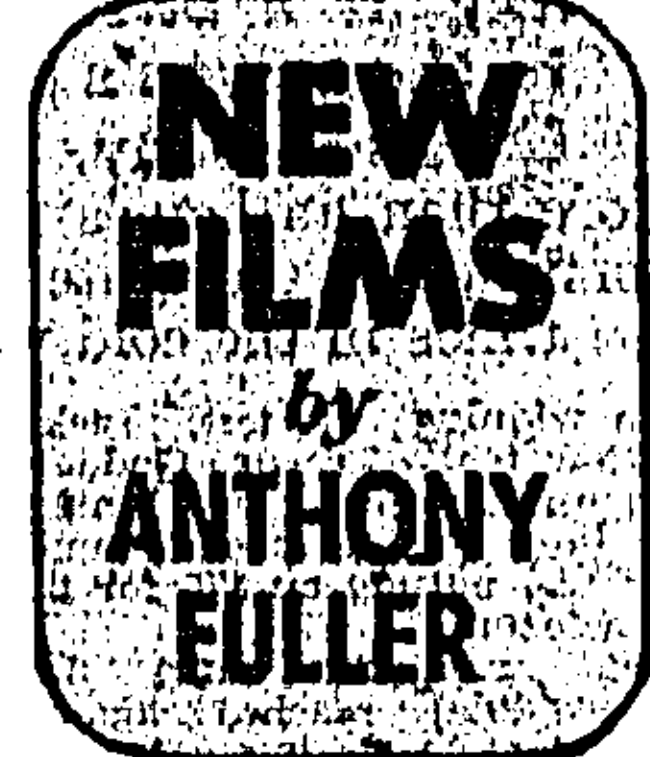
The story is slight in that
Pat Boone seems to be the
American version of the angry
young man, and his anger is
with the Chicago police who
have been unreasonable enough
to arrest him for borrowing a
cat and breaking the speed
limit.

He is sent into exile in the
blue country where he meets
Shirley Jones, and a very in-
telligent horse.

He abandoned his wild ways,
swoops the hot-rod fun for the
horse trotting races, and falls in
love with Shirley.

What is really important from
the film point of view is, there

are five songs in the show.
"April Love," "Give Me A
Gentle Girl," "Do It Yourself,"
"Bentonville Fair," and "Cover
In The Meadow." Ideal entertainment for the
holiday, and sweet all the way
through.



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Page 10

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1957.

THE GREATEST TRADITION

Christ In Art

By Muriel Penn, Reuters Correspondent

London. EVERY year, especially for the Christmas season, publishers put out a variety of Bible stories for the children and variously presented versions of the Old and New Testaments for grown-ups.

This year, one of the 5-star Christmas gifts emanating from the book world, is an original of conception as it is attractive in production. Max Parrish & Co., Ltd., have had the idea of presenting the Life of Christ in a series of reproductions of great masterpieces of art — paintings, sculpture, mosaic, enamel, manuscript illuminations and stained glass — up to the end of the 16th century.

The 44 plates, all in colour and each separately mounted so that it can easily be detached for framing if desired, have been chosen from among the works of Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Fra Angelico, Giotto, Titian, Tintoretto, El Greco, Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Pieter Bruegel the Elder and many others, by Marvin Ross, the well-known art historian who is consultant to the Ancient Art Institute.

In an introduction to the volume, published under the title "The Life of Christ in Masterpieces of Art" (Max Parrish Ltd. 55/-), Mr. Ross surveys the history and development of Christian art from its beginnings in the secrecy of the catacombs in Rome to its flowering, triumphant, in the Middle Ages and the beginning of easel painting during the Renaissance.

The illustrations in this book, he writes, "are the product of many decades of development—so much as 16 centuries in some cases; of the interpretation of an inconceivable number of students of the Gospel story; and of the imagination and inspiration of what is, in the opinion of many, the greatest tradition of art that the world has ever seen."

"The illustrations are all from periods not later than the Renaissance, but they are by various artists, from different countries, and in a great variety of media."

Readers may wonder why Mr. Ross stopped at the Renaissance. Here, in his own words, is the explanation:

"In the Renaissance, we find the beginning of an isolated form of creation—easel art—that marked the ascendancy of the individual. Gradually, the simpler doctrinal concepts were lost to sight, and the direct storytelling that left the beholder in no doubt about events or interpretations disappeared."

"The spiritual attitude of the Western world today, reflecting as it does so many divergent viewpoints and patterns of belief, is no longer able to produce works of religious art that, like so many in this book, freshly and fervently express the unified faith of great masses of mankind."

The plates are accompanied by extracts from the King James translation of the four Gospels, chosen and combined to form a continuous and complete narrative. Text and picture are arranged side by side and arranged so that the reader knows more about the history of the picture and where the original is now to be found can refer to the excellent explanatory notes in the second part of Mr. Ross's introduction.

Appropriately, since the book is published for Christmas, the jacket features a print of the plate used for Nativity—a detail from Botticelli's famous picture of the Birth of Christ, in the National Gallery in London, while the frontispiece is a detail of a Crucifix by Cimabue.

One of the attractive features of this book is that, well-known in every detail as its subject, it is still full of surprises.

Every reader will find in it highly prized and dearly loved works like Botticelli's Nativity, Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper," Rembrandt's "Descent from the Cross" or Fra Angelico's "The Marys at the Tomb." But who, with all the more popular pictures of the Crucifixion in mind, would expect to find that of the 15th century artist Matthias Grünewald? Or who would have thought to choose from among the various representations of the Angels announcing the Nativity to the Shepherds, the one in stained glass in Chartres Cathedral?

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"I know Dad likes useful presents, Mother—but not an electric floor polisher!"

Keep an eye on your nails

PEOPLE find all sorts of reasons to go to the doctor for a "tonic." Sometimes they don't even bother with a reason. Like dictators, they say, "Just write me out a prescription for a tonic, Doc."

But a doctor isn't a rubber stamp, so I asked Mr. Hudson why he wanted a tonic.

"It's my fingernails," he said, putting his hands out towards me like a sleep walker.

Fingernails can tell a doctor a great deal about a patient's health. So the next time your G.P. looks at your nails, you'll know he's not just interested in whether you've had a manicure lately.

A doctor can see, for example, whether a patient is a nail-biter and thus has a worrying, nervous temperament.

Sometimes there are transverse ridges in nails which may indicate that the patient has had a recent, severe illness.

How far these ridges are from the ends of the nails tells the doctor when the illness took place. More commonly, though, people have longitudinal ridges or furrows in their nails. A fortune-teller may think that nails of that sort indicate a man of destiny. Some doctors just believe it suggests a gouty constitution.

Spoon-shaped nails may be associated with an anaemia.

All in a doctor's day: by **CEDRIC CARNE**

Convex, excessively curved nails, however, are seen in association with lung trouble.

Mr. Hudson's fingernails were soft and they broke easily. I felt this may be the result of his not taking enough calcium in his diet.

The main sources of calcium in our food are milk and cheese. Meat, on the other hand, contains very little calcium. And, contrary to popular belief, green vegetables are also poor in calcium content.

But even if a man regularly ate up calcium like a calcium fanatic, it wouldn't do any good unless he was taking Vitamin D as well.

For the bones

"Vitamin D is necessary for the absorption of calcium into the body," I explained.

Calcium is required in the body for various reasons. First, by the bones.

The factors which regulate the calcification of bone are also concerned with the normal development of teeth, not to mention fingernails. A tooth which is initially badly formed because of calcium or Vitamin D deficiency is more liable to decay in later life. In adults too, if we should do some minor damage to a tooth, calcium is needed for its full recovery.

"I have been having some trouble lately with my teeth," Mr. Hudson said surprised.

"Apart from bones and teeth," I said, "calcium has other important functions in the body. For example, the excitability of the nerve centres and the nerve fibres depends upon the calcium content in the blood."

Changed diet

Once the calcium is absorbed into the blood stream it is regulated by the controlling mechanism of four parathyroid glands. These lie close to the thyroid gland in the neck. If these glands overwork they take too much calcium from the calcium bank of the bones. The result? Too much calcium circulates in the blood.

If they underwork, too little calcium circulates in the blood serum. If the parathyroids are not in order, the calcium economy of the body breaks down causing such things as calcium stones in the kidney, or bones that are more liable than normal to fracture.

"What about that tonic?" Mr. Hudson repeated.

I told him all he needed was a more balanced diet containing cheese and milk and cheese and bread and cheese.

"Cheese!" Mr. Hudson smiled as if I were taking his photograph.

ROBERT PITMAN'S book page

Miss Gellhorn tries to shake off a big shadow

FOR heaven's sake don't bring Hemingway into this, I beg of you," said the lady with the whisky-coloured hair. "For me that's all old history. Done with. People might think I'm latching on to his reputation—and believe me, that's just about the last thing on earth I would ever choose to do."

In an elegant room above London's elegant Chester Square, Miss Martha Gellhorn, the American author, was telling me about the big shadow she has never quite been able to shake off.

And who, you may ask, is Miss Gellhorn?

Tragic Novel

WELL, see what the reviewers have said about her.

In 1942 she wrote a stirring, tragic novel about an American woman in Prague just before the Germans marched in.

A typical review began:—"Miss Martha Gellhorn (who is the wife of Ernest Hemingway)"

In 1946 Miss Gellhorn wrote a novel called *Liana* about a native woman in the Caribbean. But one reviewer's first comment was: "This novel by Mrs Ernest Hemingway"

Then at the end of 1946 Ernest and Martha were divorced.

She wrote a successful play, but the paragraphs in the newspapers had little to say about the playwright beyond "She is the former wife of Ernest Hemingway."

Marked For Life

IN her house in Chester Square Miss Gellhorn told me: "Being one of Hemingway's ex-wives is to be marked for life. It's as if I'd been named as one of the 10 best-dressed women in the world. What's it got to do with my own work?"

Miss Gellhorn walked across the big room to pour drinks. She said: "At this time of day I'm having sherry. Sherry with ice. It doesn't hit the liver so hard that way. I got used to it in Spain with ice."

In the Spanish Civil War Martha Gellhorn was a war correspondent. She was in her twenties then. Afterwards she reported the war between China and Japan.

After that she reported the Finnish war.

During the blitz she was in London. She was at Casablanca.



Martha. "The place was creeping with Krauts... I was revolted."

On the first night after D Day she was in Normandy. (In the divorce court Hemingway claimed that "Martha destroyed her home to go there.") Then she went to Java for the war between the Indonesians and the Dutch.

As I took my sherry, I asked: "Why did you go to Spain in the first place?"

"I was doing some research and some of the books I wanted were at a library at Stuttgart in Germany. While I was studying there I got more and more appalled by the Nazis. They appointed a new young Nazi over the actual chief of the library. This new chief would ride up to the windows of the library on horseback and shout out: 'Everything all right there?' Then he would ride away, having done his work for the day."

"When I read the Stuttgart papers shouting about the retreating Nazis who were fighting for the republic in Spain, I made up my mind. Anything the Nazis were against, I was for. So I went off to Madrid and sent off articles from there. I was an ardent pacifist then."

So Mysterious

MISS GELLHORN sighed. "After that it was just war, war, war."

I swirled the ice in my sherry. I said: "Which war sticks out most in your mind?"

Then Martha Gellhorn told me: "Harry Hopkins gave me a job at \$4 dollars a week simply reporting on unemployment."

"I met Wells at the time. He was great. He liked to meet all the young people who were working with me on relief. Mind you, I can't stand young people myself now. They bore me to tears."

Miss Gellhorn, aged 48, got up and looked out into Chester Square. She talked about her husband—T. S. Matthews, ex-editor of Time. She talked about her next-door neighbour, Virginia Cowles ("We're old buddies. We were reporting in Spain together.") She talked about her home in St. Louis, Missouri, and her father, a German-born surgeon.

She said: "I feel I shouldn't, but by now I loathe the Germans. I went to see the concentration camps again recently. They're all neat and tidy. But the horror is still there like solid concrete. Yet in Germany I met only one man who felt any kind of guilt for it—and he shot himself."

Swaggered Around

MISS GELLHORN's big eyes grew cold and narrow. She said: "Take Yugoslavia. German cruelty there was worse than anywhere else. Yet when I went there just after the war the place was already simply creeping with Krauts. They'd all come back to see where they were in the war. And they brought cheap watches and cheap nylon to sell on the black market. They swaggered around and complained about the food. I was revolted."

Near-us on a table lay a book in a rough cardboard cover. It was the reason for my visit. Miss Gellhorn said: "That's the proof of my new book—to be published in February." I looked at the title—**TWO BY TWO** (publishers—Longmans).

Four Stories

MISS GELLHORN said: "It's four stories about marriage. I've called the first story 'For better, for worse,' the second 'For richer, for poorer,' and so on. I hope you like it."

I took the proof copy. As I stepped out into Chester Square I saw Barbara Gowen, another neighbour, bending herself into a small car. On the doorstep Miss Gellhorn said: "Don't make me sound too madly silly. Any woman who sits and talks about herself for an hour is bound to seem such a blithering, conceited ass."

One was the story of Pete who is forced to go out selling faces in the street. He finds that his rival is a blind man; so he dumps all his wares on the blind man's tray, crying: "You take 'em, You sell. That's your work. I'm not blind, Martha Gellhorn."

Merry Xmas & Happy New Year

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